



December 11, 2014

**LIGHTNING Team:**

Just as in years past, members of our Army Family will gather with loved ones this holiday season to honor traditions, reflect on the challenges and successes of 2014, and look with hope to 2015. As we come together with Family and friends, Americans will gather with their heads bowed at their Family tables to celebrate the blessings of the past year and look to the years to come. As you travel, I ask that each member of the Tropic Lightning Team take precautions highlighting safety into all of your holiday planning and events. Additionally, stay alert to the typical hazards during the holidays such as weather, if you are traveling to the mainland or lower 48, POV/POM accidents, criminal activity, alcohol consumption and sexual assault.

Each of you plays an important part in our success, and we need you to celebrate the holidays with safety in mind. We must take every precaution necessary, on both an individual and group level, to avoid any tragedies during this holiday season. I challenge all leaders, Soldiers, Civilians and Family members to take an "active" approach to protection during the holiday season. The simple act of looking out for one another is the key to ensuring a joyous holiday celebration for all.

When you celebrate with Family and friends, remember to celebrate responsibly. We all have an obligation to stay safe, whether on duty or off, and it's especially important we remind each other of this responsibility during our time off. The biggest blessing our Army will count this holiday season is you - every Soldier, Family Member and Civilian who makes up this amazing team. I wish you and yours a happy, blessed and safe holiday season.

Thank you for your service and dedication to our Army, our Nation and the 25<sup>TH</sup> ID mission. Have a safe and joyous holiday season.

**Tropic Lightning!**

**BENJAMIN JONES**  
Command Sergeant Major, USA  
Division Command Sergeant Major

**CHARLES A. FLYNN**  
Major General, US Army  
Commanding